

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10438 01 OF 02 181035Z

12

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

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R 180940Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7278

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 10438

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN J.)

SUBJECT: CODEL SOLARZ MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY

SUMMARY: IN WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ, FAHMY DISMISSED ARAB CRITICISM OF SINAI II AS EGYPT'S PROBLEM, NOT USC'S, CLAIMED ARAFAT IS MODERATE AND US SHOULD TALK TO HIM, AND STRESSED URGENT NECESSITY FOR MOVEMENT ON GOLAN DISENGAGEMENT TO PREPARE FOR GENEVA PEACE TALKS. ON ARMS FOR EGYPT, FAHMY SAID US MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN COMMUNIST OR WESTERN INFLUENCE IN ME; SALE OF US ARMS WOULD ESTABLISH AREA POWER BALANCE NECESSARY FOR REAL PEACE. GOE WANTS PEACE, BUT, IF AFTER 3 YEARS PEACE IS NOT CLOSER, THEN THERE WILL BE WAR. FINAL SETTLEMENT WOULD INCLUDE PEACE TREATY AND NON-BELLIGERANCY, BUT NOT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HOUR-LONG MEETING OCT 14 BETWEEN CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ AND FONMIN FAHMY FOLLOWING COMMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE WERE MADE:

2. IN RESPONSE TO SOLARZ' QUESTION ABOUT SYRAIN AND PALESTINIAN REACTION TO SINAI II, FAHMY SAID IT IS BECAUSE BOTH WANT SIMILAR POSITIVE STEPS FOR THEMSELVES. REACTION IS NOT ANTI-AMERICAN BUT THEY FEEL US IS PLAYING ONLY WITH EGYPT AND IGNORING PALESTINIANS WHO ARE ESSENCE OF PROBLEM. IN ANY CASE IT IS NOT US PROBLEM, FAHMY SAID, "YOUR PROBELM IS TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO MOVE ON PALESTINE ISSUE." SOLARZ RESPONDED THAT WHILE THERE IS STRONG DISPOSITION IN ISRAEL TO RESOLVE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, THERE IS STRONG INDISPOSITION TO DEAL WITH PLO. IN LENGTHY DEFENSE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 10438 01 OF 02 181035Z

ARAFAT AS MODERATE LEADER IF TREATED PROPERLY, FAHMY CHIDED

US AS SUPERPOWER FOR NOT AT LEAST HAVING CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES
NECESSARY TO REACH FINAL PEACE.

3. SOLARZ SAID IF PLO WOULD RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE, IT MIGHT
OPEN THE WAY. FAHMY INTERJECTED SAYING THIS WOULD COME WITH
FINAL PEACE BUT IF PLO RECOGNIZED ISRAEL NOW, IT WOULD HAVE NOTHING
LEFT TO NEGOTIATE. BESIDES, WHERE ARE THE FRONTIERS OF PRESENT-
DAY ISRAEL? NOBODY KNOWS. ISRAEL MUST, FAHMY SAID, COEXIST WITH
PALESTINIANS AS A MIDDLE EASTERN STATE - NOT AS MANHATTAN OR A PART
OF FLORIDA.

4. SOLARZ ASKED IF PALESTINIAN STATE ON WEST BANK AND GAZA
WOULD BE VIABLE. FAHMY SAID IT WOULD BE AS VIABLE AS ISRAEL BECAUSE
ISRAEL IS ONLY VIABLE BECAUSE OF MONEY PAID BY EVERY AMERICAN
TAXPAYER FOR ITS SUPPORT. ARABS HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY TO MAKE
PALESTINE STATE VIABLE AS WELL.

5. SOLARZ ASKED WHAT PROSPECT FAHMY SAW FOR MOVEMENT ON GOLAN.
FAHMY RESPONDED THAT IT IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST TO HAVE MOVEMENT ON
GOLAN SO THAT PARTIES CAN GO TO GENEVA AND BEGIN TALKING SERIOUSLY
ABOUT PEACE. AS TO SHAPE OF GOLAN AGREEMENT, WITHDRAWAL MUST
BE PART OF IT AND SITUATION AROUND KUNEITRA WITH ISRAELIS LOOKING
DOWN FROM THE HILLS MUST BE CHANGED, THROUGH UNEF FORCES OR SOME
OTHER ARRANGEMENT.

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10438 02 OF 02 181050Z

12

ACTION H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 10438

6. SOLARZ ASKED WHAT KIND OF ARMS EGYPT WAS GOING TO BE ASKING
FOR IN US. FAHMY SAID HE PERSONALLY WOULD NOT BE ASKING FOR ARMS
SINCE HE WAS CONVINCED HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GET THEM BECAUSE
OF THE ZIONIST INFLUENCE IN CONGRESS. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF MASSIVE
ISRAELI ARMS REQUESTS WHICH ARE BEING MET THROUGH BLACKMAIL OF
US, EGYPT MUST GET COMPARABLE ARMS AND ARMS RACE WILL ACCELER-

ATE. IF USG SINCERELY WANTS PEACE, IT WILL STOP POURING ARMS INTO ISRAEL. FAHMY THEN ASKED THAT IF AND WHEN EGYPT SUBMITTED ARMS REQUEST, WOULD CONGRESS BE PREPARED TO SELL THEM? HE SAID IT IS QUESTION OF COMMUNIST VS WESTERN INFLUENCE IN MIDDLE EAST AND IT IS UP TO US TO DECIDE. SOLARZ RESPONDED THAT HE FAVORED WHATEVER CAN BE DONE TO STRENGTHEN FORCES OF MODERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. FAHMY SAID EGYPT IS ALREADY BEING CRITICIZED BY NUMEROUS PERSONS FOR CUTTING ITS RELATIONS WITH USSR WITHOUT HAVING ANY GUARANTEE THAT US WILL COME THROUGH. SOLARZ ASKED IF SELLING ARMS TO EGYPT WOULD HELP TOWARD PEACE. FAHMY STRESSED THAT EGYPT IS NOT ACTING IN MANNER IT DOES IN ORDER TO OBTAIN US FAVORS. IT HAD DONE MUCH WITHOUT GETTING ANYTHING FROM US; EXPULSION OF RUSSIANS, FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. IF US PROVIDES ARMS TO EGYPT, FAHMY SAID, IT WOULD DEEPEN RELATIONSHIP AND ESTABLISH A BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA WHICH MUST EXIST IF REAL PEACE IS TO BE POSSIBLE. IF THERE IS A GREAT GAP IN MILITARY STRENGTH, THE TEMPTATION BY EITHER SIDE WOULD BE TO STRIKE THE OTHER.

7. FAHMY THEN STRESSED GOE'S DESIRE FOR PEACE, CITING OPEN DOOR ECONOMIC POLICY TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND CURRENT MEETING OF JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL. EGYPT'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS HAD BEEN CLEAR FOR SOME TIME, HE CLAIMED.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 10438 02 OF 02 181050Z

8. SOLARZ ASKED WHY ISRAELIS AGREED IN SEPT AND OT IN MARCH TO SECOND DISENGAGEMENT. FAHMY RESPONDED THAT ISRAELIS WERE TESTING US AFTER TRAUMAS OF WATERGATE AND VIETNAM AND APPLYING EXTENSIVE PRESSURE, BRIBES AND BLACKMAIL. AS RESULT, US PAID VERY HIGH PRICE FOR RETURN OF TERRITORY THAT IN NO WAY BELONGED TO ISRAEL.

9. SOLARZ SAID HE UNDESTOOD THAT HAVING UN RATHER THAN US PERSONNEL AT MONITORING STATION AT UMM KHUSHAIB WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT. FAHMY SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE, BUT FELT IT NOT USEFUL TO GO INTO DETAILS OF CORRECT VERSION. HE THOUGHT PRESENCE OF US TECHNICIANS WAS IN NO WAY COMPARABLE TO VIETNAM. IMPORTANT THING IS THAT EGYPT DOES NOT FEAR THE US PRESENCE.

10. SOLARZ ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF AFTER THREE YEARS THERE WERE NO NEW AGREEMENT IN VIEW OF WORDING IN AGREEMENT THAT IT REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL SUPERSEDED. FAHMY SAID THIS CLAUSE IS "MEANINGLESS" AND IF THERE IS NO SERIOUS MOVE TOWARDS PEACE WITHIN THREE YEARS OR LESS, THERE WILL BE A NEW WAR.

11. SOLARZ ASKED HOW ISRAELIS ARE IMPLEMENTING SINAI II. ISRAEL, FAHMY SAID, HAD NOT BEEN COOPERATIVE AT ALL IN NEGOTIATIONS, NIT-PICKING OVER THE MOST TRIVIAL POINTS, COMMAS, SEMI-COLONS, ETC. IT WAS DIFFICULT THEREFORE TO BELIEVE ISRAELIS HAVE SERIOUS INTENT OF ACHIEVING REAL PEACE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THEY IMPLEMENT

SINAI II AS THEY DID THE FIRST ACCORD, THEY COULD BE TERMED "COOPERATIVE".

12. SOLARZ ASKED WHAT EGYPT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO AS PART OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. FAHMY SAID A PEACE AGREEMENT AND NON-BELLIGERENCY BUT PROBABLY NOT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOR TRADE; THESE CAN COME BUT NOT AS CONDITIONS. NO STATE CAN DEMAND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF ANOTHER. AS FOR TRADE, EGYPTIANS HAD LEARNED LESSONS FROM WATCHING US BLOCKADE CHINA AND CUBA FOR LONG PERIOD. FAHMY ALSO SAID ANY DEMILITARIZATION IN SINAI SHOULD BE RECIPROCAL AND THAT UN COULD STAY AS PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

13. IN RESPONSE TO SOLARZ' QUESTION ABOUT EGYPT REACTION IF WAR BREAKS OUT BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, FAHMY PRECLUDED A SYRIAN ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL BECAUSE IT IS IN WEAKER POSITION. HE WENT ON TO

SAY THAT IF WAR DOES TAKE PLACE AND SYRIA IS IN DESPERATE STRAITS, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 10438 02 OF 02 181050Z

EGYPT WOULD HAVE TO FIGHT. SOLARZ ASKED WHAT SYRIANS WOULD DO IF THERE IS NO NEW ACCORD ON GOLAN. WOULD THEY RENEW UNEF MANDATE? FAHMY SAID THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY FOR RENEWAL IF US MOVES IN A HURRY.
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